Production of sugar in the country

911. SHRI RAHASBIHARI BARIK: Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been a growing fluctuation in the production of sugar in the country;

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken to remove the bottlenecks and to increase the production of sugar?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD (SHRI AJIT SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The sugar industry is an agro based industry and the production of sugar depends upon various factors such as weather conditions, drought flood, diversion of cane area to other remunerative crops, diversion of available cane to other alternative sweeteners, etc.

(c) The Government have taken/initiated the following measures in order to give a boost to the sugar production during 1994-95 sugar season:—

(i) Early-crushing incentives have been announced in the form of higher freesale quota at 72 per cent, as against the normal entitlement of 60 per cent, to sugar mills for the produtcion achieved during the period 1-10-1994 to 15-11.94.

(ii) The Statutory Minimum Price (SMP) of sugarcane for 1994-95 season has been raised to Rs. 39.10 per quintal linked to the basic recovery of 8.5 per cent. With a premium of Rs. 0.46 for every 0.1 per cent point increase in the recovery above that level upto 10 per cent and Rs. 0.60 for every 0.1 per cent point increase in the recovery above 10 per cent.

(iii) An advance announcement of Statutory Minimum Price for 1995-96 season has also been made at Rs. 42.50 per quintal linked to a basic recovery of 8.5 per cent, with premium for higher recoveries.

भारतीय खाद्य निगम के स्वामित्व वाली चावल मिलें

912. **श्री राम जेठमलानी :**
श्रीमती सुषमा स्वराज :

क्या खाद्य मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या यह सच है कि पिछले कुछ वर्षों के दौरान भारतीय खाद्य निगम ने देश में कुछ चावल मिलें स्थापित की हैं ;

(ख) यदि हां, तो ऐसी मिलों की कुल संख्या कितनी है और इनके निर्माण में कुल कितना पूंजी निवेश किया गया था;

(ग) क्या यह भी सही है कि अभी ये चावल मिलें उत्पादन नहीं कर रही हैं ; और

(घ) यदि हां, तो कौन-कौन सी मिल द्वारा अंतिम बार उत्पादन कब किया गया था और क्या यह भी सही है कि इन मिलों के बन्द हो जाने से भारतीय खाद्य निगम को आर्थिक हानि हो रही है, यदि हां, तो वार्षिक आर्थिक हानि का अनुमान क्या है ?

खाद्य मंत्री (श्री अजित सिंह) : (क) और (ख) जी, हां । भारतीय खाद्य निगम ने 434.31 लाख रुपये की लागत पर 25 माडर्न राइस मिलें स्थापित की थीं ।

(ग) जी, हां । फिलहाल ये मिलें कार्यरत नहीं हैं ।